

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

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SUBJECT: ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE STATEMENTS -- MORO CEREMONY

1. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN CLEARED BY DEPART-
MENT AND HEW.

2. QUOTE: ARRIVAL STATEMENT

WE COME, AT THIS SOMBER MOMENT, TO REPRESENT PRESIDENT
CARTER AND TO EXPRESS, TO THE FAMILY OF ALDO MORO AND ALL
THE PEOPLE OF ITALY, THE SYMPATHY AND OUTRAGE OF THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE. FOR THE DEATHS OF ALDO MORO, AND FIVE OTHER
INNOCENT MEN WHOM WE REMEMBER AT THIS MOMENT, ARE AN
AFFRONT NOT ONLY TO ITALY, BUT TO CIVILIZATION.

IN THE TENSE AND TRAGIC SEVEN WEEKS JUST PASSED, THE WORLD
HAS SEEN THEFACE OF TERRORISM AT ITS MOST RUTHLESS. BUT
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WE HAVE SEEN ALSO THE DIGNITY OF THE ITALIAN PEOPLE AND
THEIR LEADERS AS THEY STOOD FIRM, DETERMINED TO DEFEND AND
PRESERVE THE VALUES OF DEMOCRACY.

ALDO MORO, TRAGICALLY, IS DEAD. BUT THE QUALITIES HE PER-
SONIFIED -- MODERATION, CONCILIATION, STEADFAST DEVOTION

TO A DEMOCRATIC ITALY -- SURVIVE. THOSE QUALITIES, I BELIEVE, WILL NOT ONLY SURVIVE IN ITALY, THEY WILL PREVAIL -- PREVAIL OVER THE ARROGANCE AND COWARDICE OF HIS ATTACKERS. FOR ALDO MORO, AFTER ALL, REPRESENTED THE TRUE ITALY; HIS ATTACKERS ARE A PATHETIC CRIMINAL FEW.

IN THIS MOMENT AS IN THE PAST, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THEIR GOVERNMENT STAND BESIDE THE PEOPLE OF ITALY AS GOOD FRIENDS AND AS KINDRED PEOPLE. AS WE MOURN THE DEATH OF ALDO MORO, WE COMMIT OURSELVES ANEW TO THE PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH HE LIVED. END QUOTE.

3. QUOTE: DEPARTURE STATEMENT

WE COME AWAY FROM THIS BRIEF VISIT BOTH SADDENED AND INSPIRED. FOR IN OUR TIME HERE, WE HAVE SEEN A PEOPLE BOWED DOWN BY A SENSELESS TRAGEDY -- BUT A PEOPLE CAPABLE OF SURMOUNTING THIS MISFORTUNE WITH RENEWED STRENGTH AND COURAGE.

ALDO MORO DIED AS A CAPTIVE SOLDIER IN THE DEFENSE OF WESTERN DEMOCRACY. NOW ALL OF US, AS HIS FELLOW BELIEVERS IN THAT CAUSE, MUST ENSURE THAT HIS DEATH WAS NOT IN VAIN -- BY WORKING TO STRENGTHEN THE TIES THAT BIND THE WESTERN ALLIANCE IN WHICH HE BELIEVED.

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AS WE RETURN HOME, WE DO SO WITH A RENEWED DETERMINATION TO STRENGTHEN THOSE TIES; WITH A RENEWED SENSE OF ITALY'S IMPORTANCE AS A FRIEND AND ALLY; WITH ADMIRATION FOR PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI AND WITH DEEPENED FEELINGS FOR THE ITALIAN PEOPLE. END QUOTE.

4. PLEASE REPORT WHETHER USED.

5. DECLASSIFY UPON DELIVERY OF STATEMENTS. VANCE

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